

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 05606 290600Z

64

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4123

S E C R E T JAKARTA 5606

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, PINS, PT, IN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY - TIMOR

REF: STATE 101116

1. IT IS NEITHER CORRECT NOR FAIR TO INDONESIANS TO SUGGEST, AS IMPLIED IN LETTER FROM SENATOR HUMPHREY, THAT OUR REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM ON THE USE OF U.S. ARMS IN TIMOR HAVE BEEN IGNORED.

2. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH SENIOR INDONESIAN OFFICIALS IT IS CLEAR THAT AWARENESS OF RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT WAS SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DELAYING DECISION TO SUPPORT MILITARY ACTION IN TIMOR. WHEN INDONESIANS CONCLUDED THEY HAD NO CHOICE, THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED MAKE MINIMUM USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT. DESPITE SERIOUS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN USING EQUIPMENT OF OTHER ORIGINS, INCLUDING OLD YUGOSLOV WEAPONS, SUCH EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN BACKBONE OF THEIR EFFORT. I BELIEVE GENERAL MURDANI WAS SINCERE WHEN HE TOLD ME RECENTLY EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE WITHDRAW U.S. EQUIPMENT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. IF ISSUE ARISES AGAIN IN CONTACTS WITH CONGRESS, SUGGEST WE SAY THAT INDONESIANS CLEARLY AWARE OF U.S. LAW AND HAVE DEPENDED LARGELY ON EQUIPMENT OF OTHER

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NATIONAL ORIGINS SEEKING MINIMIZE USE OF ITEMS PROVIDED

BY U.S.
NEWSOM

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